



The Old Ironsides Report



Oct. 6, 2003

Volume I Issue 76

New radio system is Baghdad's '911'

Story by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – With newly trained, freshly equipped Iraqi police, firefighting and ambulance services currently operating in Baghdad, the country has taken huge steps toward the peace and stability its citizens long for.

As part of the modernization of this area of Iraq's infrastructure, the U.S. Army MPs have begun to implement a new telecommunications system that will allow emergency services to communicate with each other and their U.S. Army counterparts.

The system also provides emergency services with the information necessary to respond to emergencies quickly and effectively.

"The new system is the "104 system." Iraqi citizens that have a phone will soon be able to call 104 and report emergencies," said Capt. Robert Cosgrove, 18th Military Police Brigade liaison officer.

The new system, said Cosgrove, will address one of the most pressing needs of the citizens of Baghdad. Following Operation Iraqi Freedom, most city infrastructure was abandoned or sabotaged.

The U.S. Army focused its reconstruction efforts on the welfare of the Iraqi people, and establishing a communications program for emergency response services is a significant step forward, said Cosgrove.

"The system being put in place now will eventually lead to integration between fire, police and hospital ambulance services' communications," Cosgrove said. "The final system should be completed in two years."

Motorola Communications is providing U.S. Army MPs with the equipment required for such a large-scale project. The system will follow a template that is familiar to anyone who has worked with emergency response systems in the U.S.

"We are attempting to model the way we operate emergency police systems upon the way things work back in the states, while respecting cultural differences," said Cosgrove. "Some things are done differently over here, and we want to be sensitive to those areas."

The Iraqis involved with the civil services in Baghdad will also play a vital role in the revamping of the emergency response infrastructure.

"Every police manager will have a mobile radio and can carry it wherever he goes," said 1st Lt. Jassim Mohammed, manager of public relations at the Duara Police station. "If an emergency arises and the IPS need support from the coalition forces MPs, they may use the device for calling the officer on duty."

"The bottom line is it is the Iraqis' system," Cosgrove said. "We are just here to provide help and make suggestions."

The MPs do not expect the new system to be an instant success but projects are in order to make Iraqis aware



Second Lt. Dana Rood, 55th Personnel Services Battalion's postal section, recites the officer's commissioning oath to her husband, John Rood, swearing him into the U.S. Army Oct. 4. The commissioning ceremony took place via video teleconference between Dana, at 1st Armored Division headquarters at Baghdad International Airport, and John, in Hanau, Germany. The couple has been married 19 months, but only six of those months have been spent with each other. Dana said the opportunity to commission her husband gave her "a good feeling because we are making progress." Photo by Spc. Chad Wilkerson, 372nd MPAD.

of the system and how to use it.

"It is going to take some time to catch on and for us to promote it," said Cosgrove. "Working phone lines are important to the system, so we are taking it one step forward at a time."

Even with the current lack of phone services in Iraq, Cosgrove said that IPS will still be able to use the new system to provide emergency services more effectively than what has been available over the past several months.

"In case the ordinary citizen does not have telephone service, he can inform the police directly through the IPS officers doing foot patrols in the communities," said Mohammed. "Through them, police sentries can be informed by radio about the emergency."

NEWS

Israel Bombs Alleged Terror Base in Syria

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli warplanes bombed Syria on Sunday, striking what the military called an Islamic Jihad training base in retaliation for a suicide bombing at a Haifa restaurant. It was the first Israeli attack deep inside Syrian territory in three decades. The attack - one day after an Islamic Jihad bomber killed 19 people - threatened to widen three years of Israeli-Palestinian violence into neighboring countries and marked a dramatic new strategy in Israel's efforts to stop terror attacks.

Wilson: CIA Leak Endangered Wife's Life

WASHINGTON (AP) - The former diplomat whose wife's identity as a CIA officer was disclosed by the Bush administration said Sunday that the leak has put her life in danger, and the government is not protecting her. "There have been a number of other people who've come out and suggested that perhaps this does make her a target," Joseph Wilson said.

Woman Kills Two, Self at Atlanta Church

ATLANTA (AP) - A woman opened fire at an Atlanta church before services started Sunday morning, killing her mother and the minister before committing suicide. Police did not release the names of the women, but congregants of Turner Monumental A.M.E. Church said the daughter had a history of mental illness.

Jack Black's 'School' Rocks Box Office

LOS ANGELES (AP) - "The School of Rock," with Jack Black playing a rocker posing as a substitute teacher to coach fifth graders for a battle-of-the-bands contest, earned top grades from audiences with a \$20.2 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Out of Time," starring Denzel Washington as a police chief scrambling to prove his innocence in a double murder, opened in second place with \$17 million.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: **Windtalkers**

Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. —2 Peter 1:21

Their contribution to victory in World War II was enormous, but few people even knew about them. In 1942, the US Army recruited and trained 29 young Navajo Indians and sent them to a base surrounded in secrecy. These people, who were called "windtalkers," had been asked to devise a special code in their native language that the enemy couldn't break. They succeeded, and the code was never broken. It secured and greatly speeded up war communications. For 23 years after the war, that secret code remained classified in case it might be needed again.

By contrast, the Bible was not sent down to us in some unbreakable code impossible to understand. Although it contains rich imagery, vivid metaphors, and the record of magnificent visions, it was written by human authors to give people the message of God's love and salvation.

Today in History:

YOM KIPPUR WAR BEGINS:

Hoping to win back territory lost to Israel during the third Arab-Israeli war, Egyptian and Syrian forces launch a coordinated attack against Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

Taking the Israeli Defense Forces by surprise, Egyptian troops swept deep into the Sinai Peninsula, while Syria struggled to throw occupying Israeli troops out of the Golan Heights.

Israel's stunning victory in the Six-Day War of 1967 left the Jewish nation in control of territory four times its previous size. Egypt lost the 23,500-square-mile Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, Jordan the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Syria the strategic Golan Heights.

When Anwar el-Sadat became president of Egypt in 1970, he found himself leader of an economically troubled nation that could ill afford to continue its endless crusade against Israel. He wanted to make peace and thereby achieve stability and recovery of the Sinai, but after Israel's 1967 victory it was unlikely that Israel's peace terms would be favorable to Egypt.

So Sadat conceived of a daring plan to attack Israel again, which, even if unsuccessful, might convince the Israelis that peace with Egypt was necessary.

When the fourth Arab-Israeli war began on October 6, 1973, many of Israel's soldiers were away from their posts observing Yom Kippur, and the Arab armies made impressive advances with their up-to-date Soviet weaponry. Iraqi forces soon joined the war, and Syria received support from Jordan.

After several days, Israel was fully mobilized, and the Israel Defense Forces began beating back the Arab gains at a heavy cost to soldiers and equipment.

A U.S. airlift of arms aided Israel's cause, but President Richard Nixon delayed the emergency military aid for seven days as a tacit signal of U.S. sympathy for Egypt. In late October, an Egyptian-Israeli cease-fire was secured by the United Nations.

SAFETY TIP:

Rabies – Fatal viral illness from the bite of an infected animal.

- Carriers are dogs, cats, rodents or other mammals and can appear healthy.
- Signs and Symptoms of Illness in Humans
- Non-specific early symptoms – headache, decreased energy and fever.
 - Late symptoms – anxiety, confusion, agitation, delirium, hallucinations and insomnia.
- Treatment –
 - Vigorous bite site washing with soap and water
 - Administration of vaccine (5 shots) and immune globulin (1 shot)
- Prevention –
 - No pets of any kind
 - Avoid contact with all animals
 - Report all bites to unit medical officer for possible administration of rabies prophylaxis.

The Old Ironsides Report Oct. 5, 2003



SAINTS (1-3)

13



CARDINALS (1-3)

7



PANTHERS (3-0)

19



COWBOYS (2-1)

24



DOLPHINS (2-1)

23



SEAHAWKS (3-0)

13



GIANTS (2-1)

10



PACKERS (2-2)

35



BENGALS (1-3)

16



RAIDERS (2-3)

21



BILLS (2-2)

22



BEARS (1-3)

24



VIKINGS (5-0)

39



TITANS (3-2)

30



FALCONS (1-4)

26



PATRIOTS (3-2)

38



DOLPHINS (3-1)

23



SEAHAWKS (3-1)

13



GIANTS (2-2)

10



PACKERS (3-2)

35



BRONCOS (4-1)

23



CHARGERS (0-4)

21



CHIEFS (5-0)

24



JAGUARS (0-4)

27



LIONS (1-3)

17



REDSKINS (3-1)

25



49ERS (1-3)

24



EAGLES (1-2)

27